



From October 2015 (Volume 56)





In October 2015, Lynn and I flew to Israel to stay with Ivor & Judi in their apartment in Netanya. Flying out on EasyJet with Carolyn and Jon and meeting Steve and Joan on the plane started the vacation off with a real laugh. We picked up our hired car in Tel Aviv and drove to their apartment





Ivor's explaining to Lynn that Netanya's Bond Street shirt fashion prices were 8 shekels tops (collar extra)





Photo History





Photo History



Street graffiti is international and these in Netanya were great fun

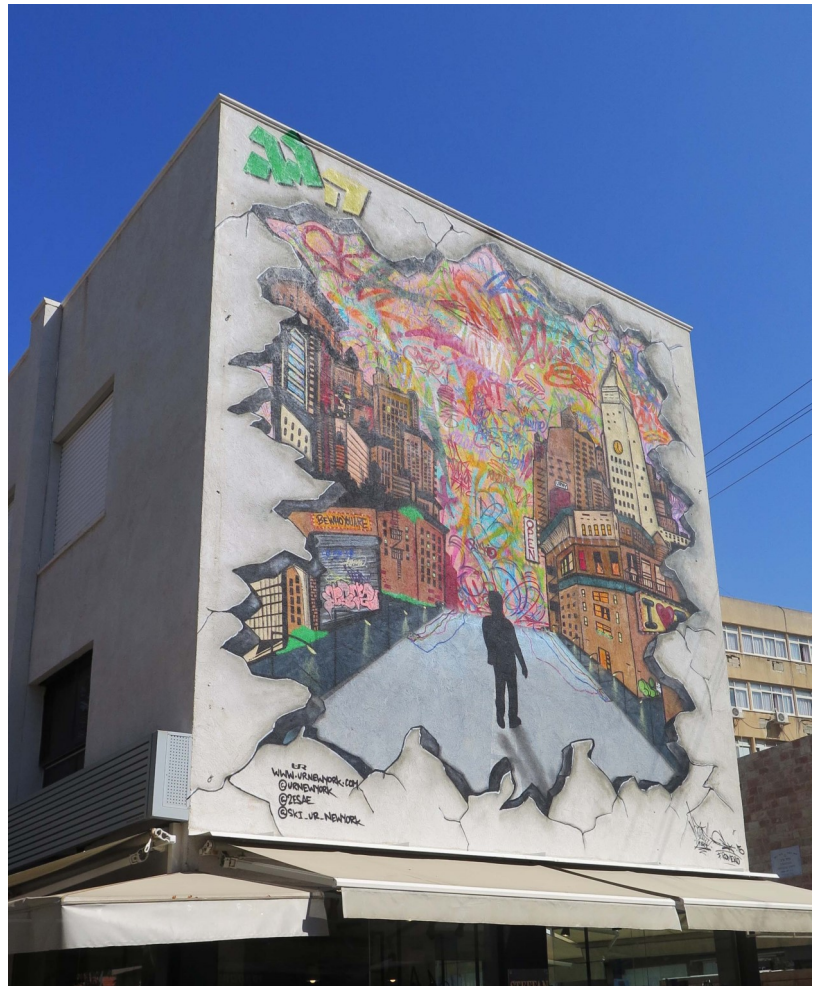
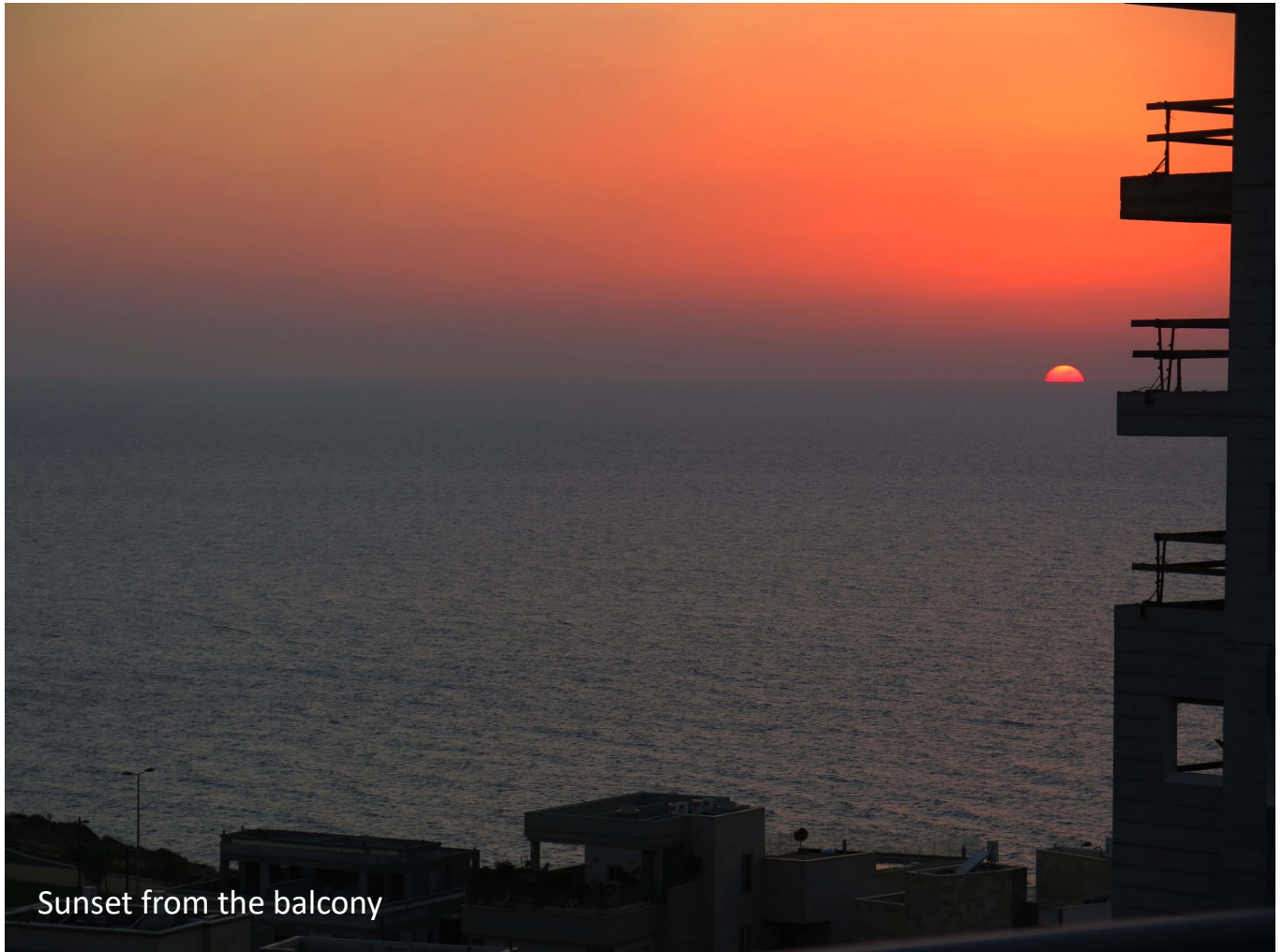








Photo History



Sunset from the balcony



Carolyn, Lynn and I took the train from Netanya to Tel-Aviv where we met Arnon for a 'whistle-stop' tour including Jaffe



Judi had met Arnon the previous week



Some of the armed security patrolling the beach area by Jaffa

The Mahmoudia Mosque is the largest mosque in Jaffa





Photo History

The Soap Factory Compound (Assarayah al Atiqah) was erected on the remnants of a structure from the crusader era. It was built in its current formation in the 18th century and served as the seat of the Ottoman governor. The structure was called Assarayah al Atiqah, and served also as a post office and guard house until the construction of the new governor's house in the clock tower square. In 1733 part of the building was purchased by the Demiani family, an old and famous Christian family of Jaffa, and converted by them to be used as a soap factory that had great success. The structure was abandoned during the War of Independence, after which the Jaffa Museum of Antiquities was established in it. Arnon explained that this section was a bat roost and therefore was protected



The mosque Renovations are still continuing





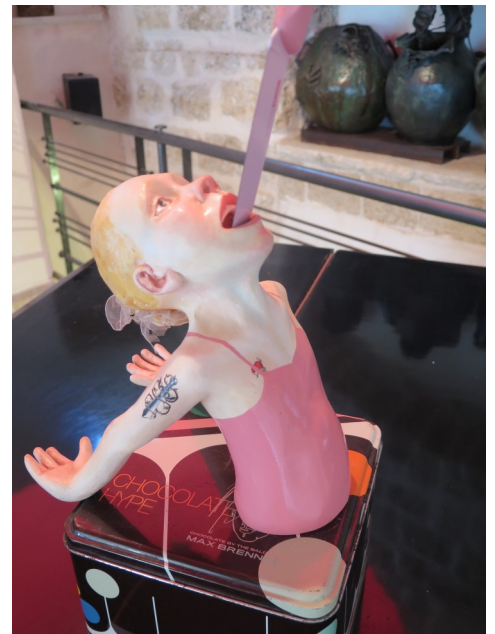
Photo History

Acre has become a great tourist mecca now and these shots towards the sea wall have become a favourite place to eat





Ilana Goor Museum in Jaffa



Some of the treasures in Ilana Goor's stunning house/museum







Photo History





Photo History



Around the kitchen

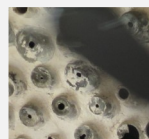




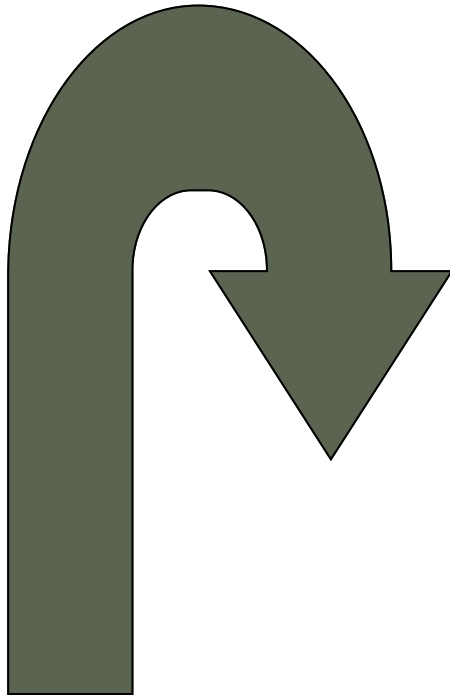


Photo History





Photo History



The sign says electronic cameras are active...but “ where are they hidden I hear you ask”

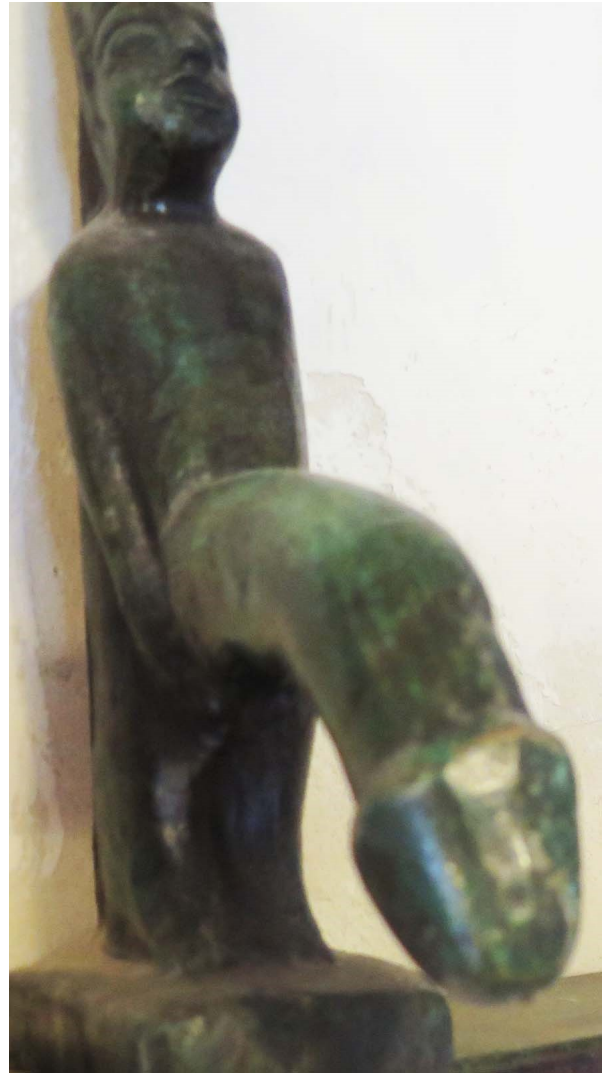






Photo History



Sitting pretty







Photo History





Photo History





Photo History



No apologies for printing so many shots from Ilana's house..it was just awesome and I have had to leave out loads more...



These shots were taken on the roof terrace





Tree growing in plant pot suspended in mid-air in the Old City of Jaffa , Israel





Old Jaffa and the view from there towards Tel Aviv







Welcome to The Mysterious Room of Adina Plastelina

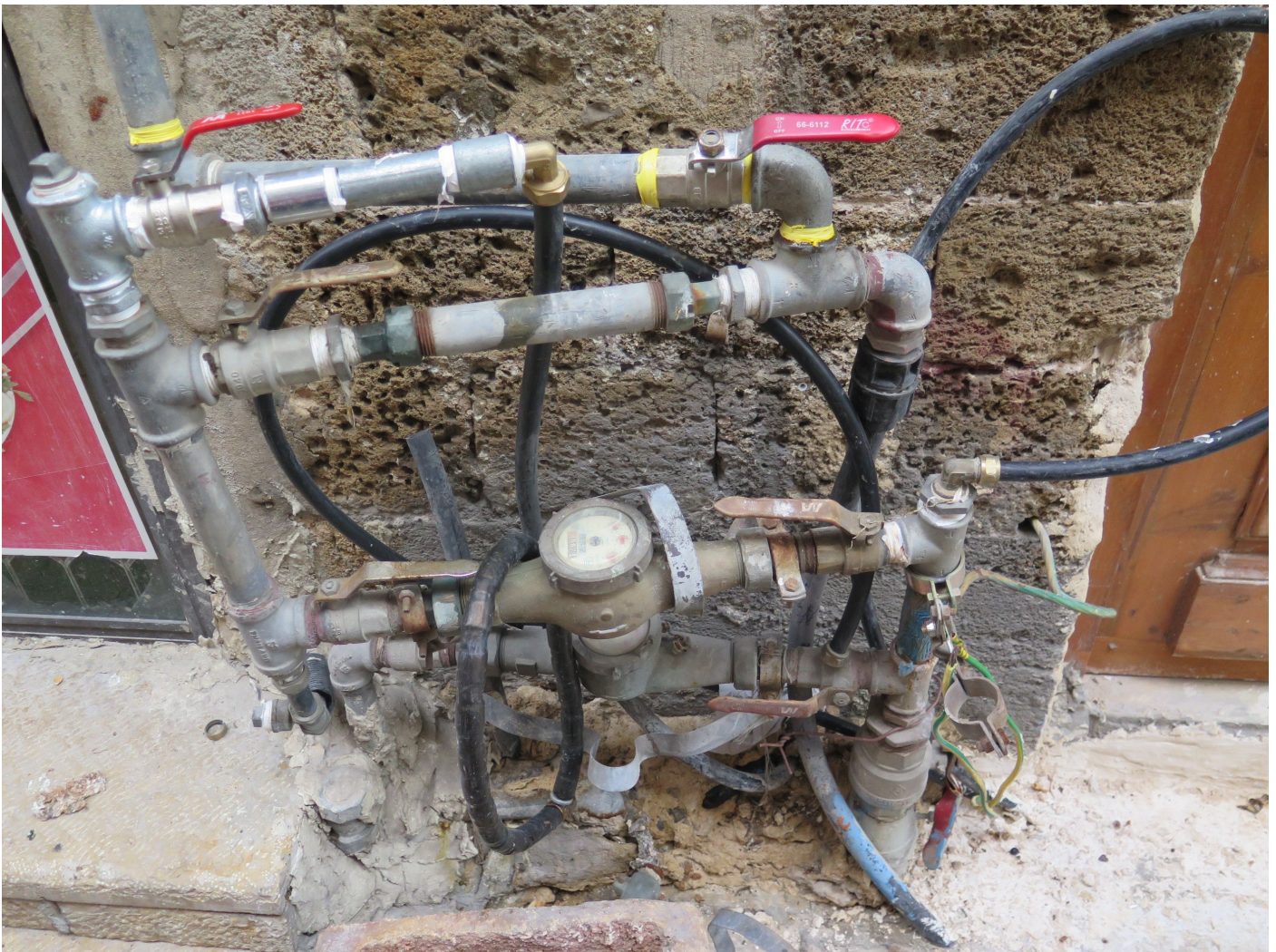
In the year 2006, we were performing extensive renovation work in the gallery. At that time, the ruins of an ancient limestone structure was revealed at the sand mound level. During a complex engineering effort, headed by Mr. Hassan El-Obidi, a round hollow with 280 centimeters in diameter was uncovered.

What was this building used for? Was it for religious or cultish use? Was it part of someone's home or used for water storage? Who built it and during what period? Were they the ancient Egyptians, Phoenicians, Romans or Crusaders?

The many and varied artifacts we discovered under the floor of the gallery, as well as within the remnants of this unique structure, serve as testimony to the lives and activities of local residents—who have influenced the history of Jaffa for 3,500 years, spanning from the late-Bronze Age until today.



Ever wonder what plumbers dream about at night (other than money???)





No, I think it's the roots of the flowers !!!!!





Arnon produced some fascinating archive photos from the formation of Tel Aviv (see next page)



Photo History





.....and this is possibly an electricians bad dream sequence





Relaxing with a welcome drink in the 'gentrified' area of Neve Tzedek - a neighborhood located in southwestern Tel Aviv,





The 6 of us drove via Nazareth to Zippori National Park where Ivor gave us an excellent guided tour. The four of them went on to a reunion and Lynn and I continued on to visit the Tiberias region. It was a new experience for us driving through many Arab areas where we were delighted to see the peaceful co-existence and many beautiful Arabic houses being built in the rapidly expanding towns. This is very different to what the media tells us.



The fertile valleys surrounding The Zippori National Park. It is situated in the western Lower Galilee at 289 meters above sea level



Photo History



Remains of a magnificent city were discovered here. Including a system of streets shown here, public buildings, dwellings, a theatre, central market, bathhouses, , a synagogue and churches mainly dating from the Roman and Byzantine periodsThe system of aquaducts east of the city included channels, a gigantic water reservoir a tunnel and pool. Zippori is mentioned for the first time during the reign of Alezander Janeus (103BC) however some findings date to the First Temple period indicating an earlier settlement





The grid network of the streets indicate early urban planning with groups of buildings with two colonnaded streets. The streets were paved in hard limestone while the porticoes along both sides were paved with mosaics. Ruts shown here were created by wagon wheels passing repeatedly over the years.





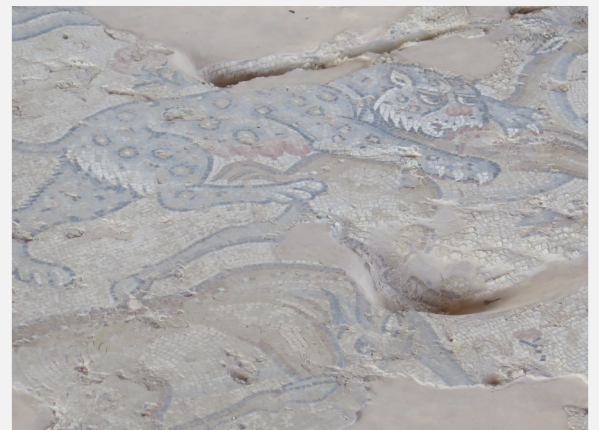
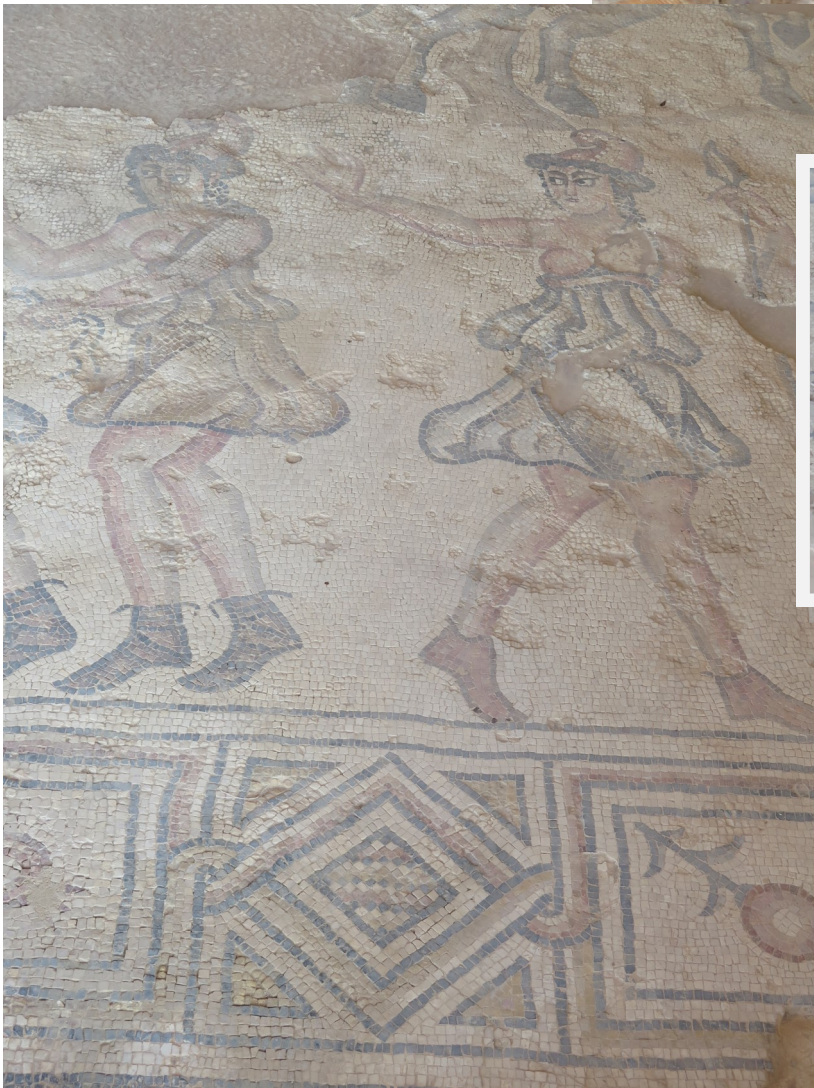
Photo History

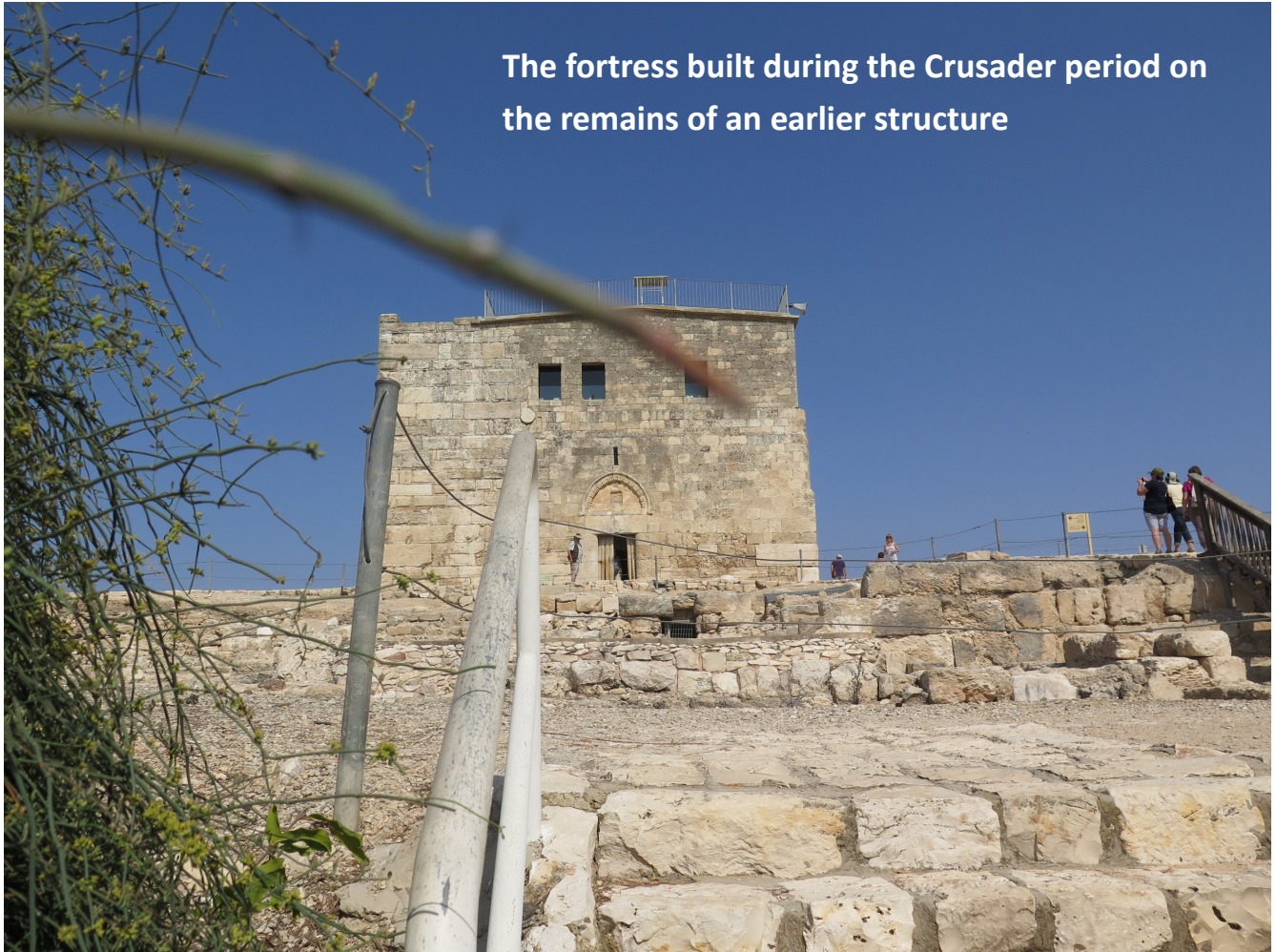




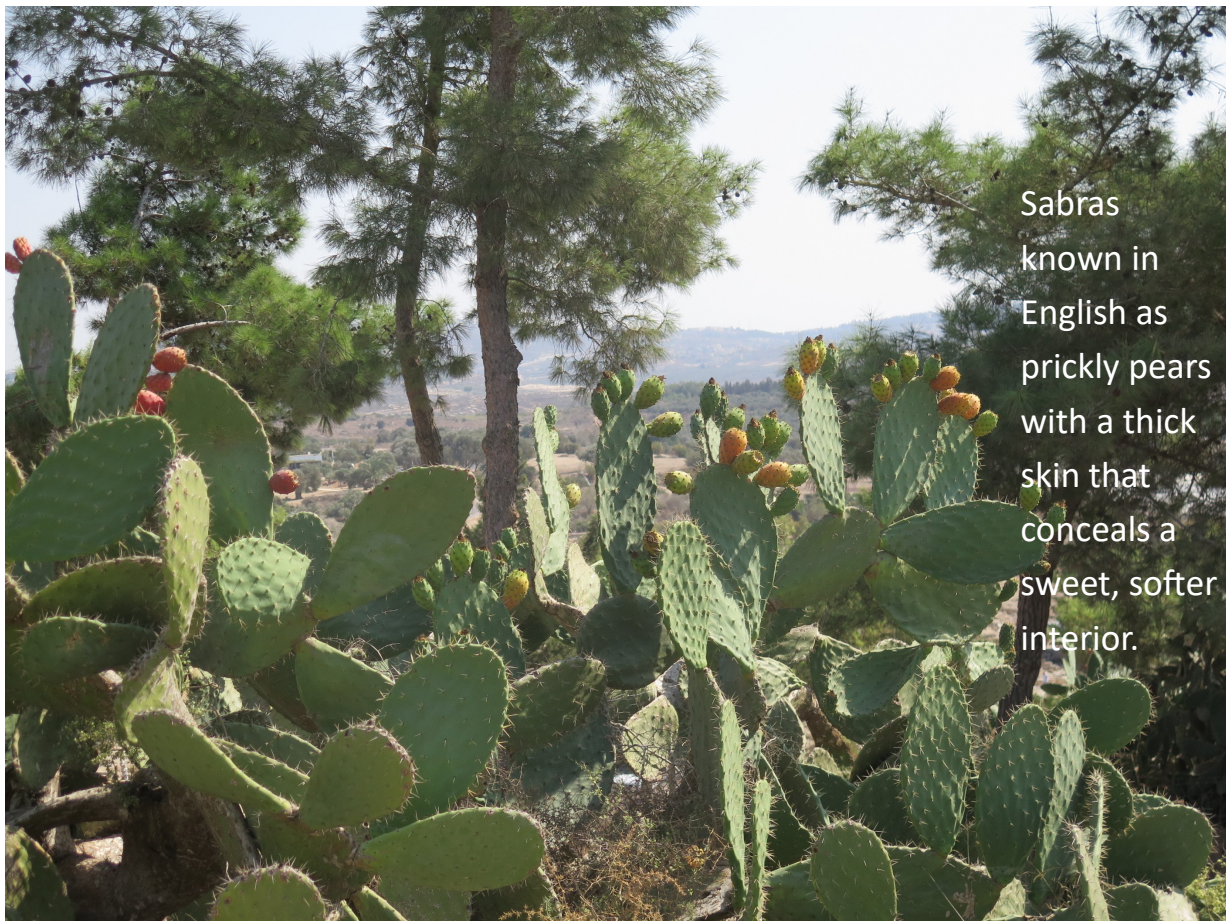
In the Dionysus House near the top of the hill is this beautiful woman dubbed “The Mona Lisa of Zippori”

The largest floor of The Nile House was decorated with colourful mosaics (some shown here were wetted to bring out the hidden colour). One of the spectacular mosaics depicts the celebrations held in Egypt when the Nile overflowed





The fortress built during the Crusader period on the remains of an earlier structure



Sabras known in English as prickly pears with a thick skin that conceals a sweet, softer interior.



Leaving a baking-hot Zippori we visited friends of Ivor & Judy who have made a life for themselves producing a very high grade olive oil in their farm/home/olive press that they built themselves. We bought some of their wonderful produce to bring home



The olive oil tasting table



The old olive press



The family and the product...





Photo History



After Ziipori we drove to Acre (Akko) leaving the car and walking through the old city (and getting totally lost)





On the sea wall opposite Uri Buri's restaurant where we had booked a meal from England



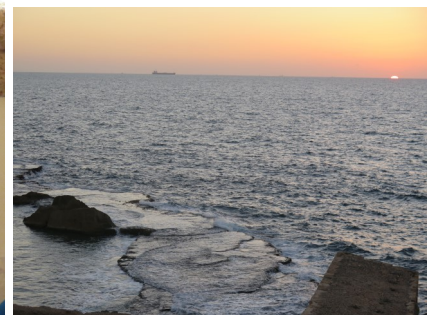
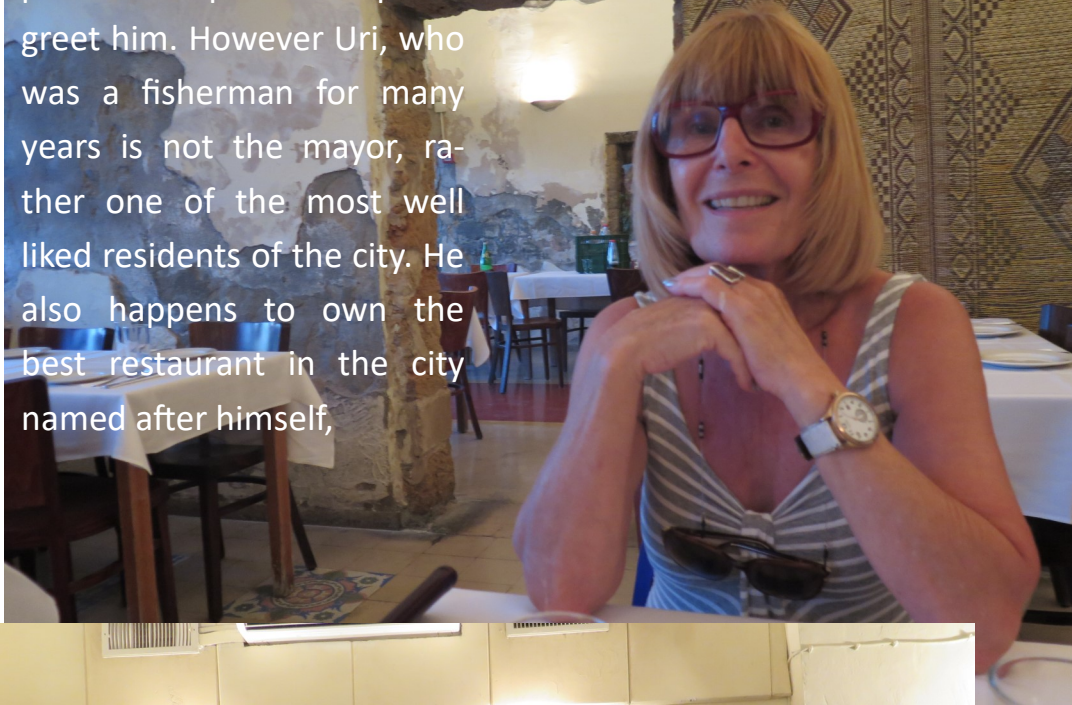
Announced by a cavalcade of vehicles with sirens and horns this young couple went into their wedding in the old city



Photo History



Located in Northern Israel near the city of Haifa is the small port city of Acre (Akko) which is home to a popular man named Uri Jeremias, also known as Uri Buri. Walking through the Turkish Bazaar with Uri one might assume that he was the mayor of the city as every person he passes stops to greet him. However Uri, who was a fisherman for many years is not the mayor, rather one of the most well liked residents of the city. He also happens to own the best restaurant in the city named after himself,





The Bahá'í Gardens in Haifa comprise a staircase of nineteen terraces extending all the way up the northern slope of Mount Carmel. The geometry of the complex is built around the axis connecting it with the City of 'Akko,





Nothing can really prepare you for this great sight, especially as we arrived at night. A long main street with cafes and restaurants either side, alive with music and people walking and enjoying themselves. At the end this line of lights snaking up the side of mount Carmel with beautiful gardens on both sides and with the wonderful Temple illuminated at the summit. It was memorable.

We walked and enjoyed the atmosphere and then got totally frustrated, trying to find our way back from Haifa to Tel Aviv with only signs in Ivrit. We were ecstatic when we eventually found the signs in English and arrived back in Netanya tired but happy





Photo History



**It might be corny but this is the first time I
have actually seen a pomegranate growing**





Photo History

The Sea of Galilee, also Kinneret, Lake Tiberias, is the largest freshwater lake in Israel, and it is approximately 53 km in circumference, about 21 km long, and 13 km wide. .
Seen here from Ramon





From BBC News... Israel seized the Golan Heights from Syria in the closing stages of the 1967 Six-Day War. Most of the Syrian Arab inhabitants fled the area during the conflict. An armistice line was established and the region came under Israeli military control. Almost immediately Israel began to settle the Golan.

Syria tried to retake the Golan Heights during the 1973 Middle East war. Despite inflicting heavy losses on Israeli forces, the surprise assault was thwarted. Both countries signed an armistice in 1974 and a UN observer force has been in place on the ceasefire line since 1974.

Israel unilaterally annexed the Golan Heights in 1981. The move was not recognised internationally. There are more than 30 Jewish settlements on the heights, with an estimated 20,000 settlers. There are some 20,000 Syrians in the area, most of them members of the Druze sect.

Southern Syria and the capital Damascus, about 60 km (40 miles) north, are clearly visible from the top of the Heights while Syrian artillery regularly shelled the whole of northern Israel from 1948 to 1967 when Syria controlled the Heights. The heights give Israel an excellent vantage point for monitoring Syrian movements. The topography provides a natural buffer against any military thrust from Syria. The area is also a key source of water for an arid region. Rainwater from the Golan's catchment feeds into the Jordan River. The area provides a third of Israel's water supply.

The land is fertile, with the volcanic soil being used to cultivate vineyards and orchards and to raise cattle. The Golan is also home to Israel's only ski resort.

Israel wishes to retain control of Galilee and says the border is located a few hundred metres to the east of the shore. A deal with Syria would also involve the dismantling of Jewish settlements in the territory.

Public opinion in Israel appears not to favour withdrawal. Opponents say the heights are too strategically important to be returned

Indirect talks between Israel and Syria resumed in 2008, through Turkish government intermediaries, but were suspended following the resignation of Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Olmert over a corruption inquiry. The Israeli government under Binyamin Netanyahu elected in February 2009 indicated that it was determined to take a tougher line over the Golan, and in June 2009, the Syrian leader said there was no partner for talks on the Israeli side.

Syrian civil war

The US administration of President Barack Obama - who took up office in January 2009 - declared the restarting of talks between Israel and Syria to be one of its main foreign policy goals, but the advent of civil war in Syria in 2011 put paid to any progress.



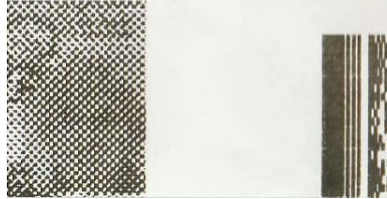
Photo History



Oct 2015 . No postscript for this book as it contuse onto the next book



Our border
control permits



We visited The Utopia
Orchid Farm which was
a Kibbutz commercial
venture which also
served as a wedding
venue



